

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 EUR-25 EB-11 CU-04 DRC-01 /152 W

----- 018548

P R 131600Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3748

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USUN NY 824

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 105

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SAG CAMPAIGN AGAINST BLACK ACTIVISTS

REF: (A) STATE 028548; (B) CAPE TOWN 100 (NOTAL);

(C) CAPE TOWN 0084 (NOTAL)

1. INQUIRY WITH DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) FEBRUARY 13
ELICITED RESPONSE ONLY THAT DFA UNINFORMED ON SWAPO ARRESTS AND
WOULD UNDERTAKE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FOR EMBASSY.

2. HOWEVER, IN TELCON WITH OFFICIAL IN WINDHOEK OFFICE OF PRIME
MINISTER'S REPRESENTATIVE IN SWA, WE LEARNED FOLLOWING: TEN
SWAPO OR SWAPO YOUTH LEAGUE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED UNDER
TERMS OF TERRORISM ACT. SIX ARE OFFICE HOLDERS IN ONE OF THE
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TWO ORGANIZATIONS, THE OTHER FOUR ARE RANK AND FILE MEMBERS.

OFFICERS ARE DAVID MERORO, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF SWAPO IN NAMIBIA, AND THE FIVE MEN REPORTED AS HAVING BEEN ARRESTED PRIOR TO MERORO'S DETENTION (REFTEL C): EZRIEL TAAPOPI, ACTING CHAIRMAN OF YOUTH LEAGUE; AXEL JOHANNES, SWAPO ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN WINDHOEK; DANIEL SHIWANGURULA, SWAPO SECRETARY IN WALVIS BAY; BENJAMIN NAMALAMBO, MEMBER OF SWAPO EXECUTIVE IN WINDHOEK; AND SHIHEPO MBILL, MEMBER OF YOUTH LEAGUE EXECUTIVE IN WINDHOEK. THE NAMES OF NON-OFFICE BEARERS WERE NOT AVAILABLE.

3. AS NOTED IN REFTEL (B), POLICE IN WINDHOEK NOT AUTHORIZED ISSUE ANY STATEMENTS. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER SOURCES THERE, PRESS BEING TOLD TO DIRECT INQUIRIES TO POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH IN PRETORIA. HOWEVER, EXCEPT FOR INITIAL STATEMENT BY SWA ADMINISTRATOR VAN DER WALT, NEITHER SAG NOR SWA AUTHORITIES HAVE MADE ANY STATEMENT REGARDING THE CASE.

4. OFFICIAL IN OFFICE OF PM'S REPRESENTATIVE SAID A LAWYER IS WORKING ON BEHALF OF DETAINEES. HOWEVER, BECAUSE TERRORISM ACT PROVIDES THAT DETAINEES ARE DENIED ACCESS TO COUNSEL, LAWYER HAS BEEN UNABLE TO SEE ANY OF HIS CLIENTS. OFFICIAL WAS UNABLE GIVE US NAME OF LAWYER BUT SAID HE WOULD ENDEAVOR DO SO TOMORROW. HE SAID THAT AT THIS JUNCTURE THERE NO INDICATION OF WHAT CHARGES MIGHT BE BROUGHT AGAINST DETAINEES OR WHETHER ANY OF THEM MIGHT BE RELEASED AFTER QUESTIONING.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINS, WA, SWAPO, (MERORO, DAVID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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